

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment, reconsideration of all grounds of rejection, and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-10, as shown above, remain pending herein. Claim 11 has been added, support for which is found in the specification at least at page 3, lines 28-33.

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kellermann (U.S. 5,602,962) in view of Oh (U.S. 5,353,376). Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of references fails to disclose or suggest any of the present claims. For example, it is admitted with regard to the combination of references that Kellermann fails to teach a controller that causes the processor to maximize a power measure of the combined audio signal, wherein the controller is arranged to limit a combined power gain measure of the processed audio signals to a predetermined value without measuring an energy transfer at each site where one respective audio source receives the input audio signals. Although it is alleged in the Office Action that Oh in combination with Kellermann provides these teachings, Applicants respectfully disagree, as Oh utilizes a Delay-Sum beamformer (please see column 3, lines 49-53).

Applicants also disclose at page 1, lines 25-29 of the instant application that the Delay-Sum beamformer has problems determining delay values accurately and tracking a moving speaker or multiple speakers.

The present invention, *inter alia*, over comes problems in previous systems such as Kellerman, Oh and/or the combination of Kellermann and Oh in that the audio signals are weighted without delay values.

In contrast, in art such as Oh, delay values are based in part on known positions of the speaker, which means that if there are multiple persons speaker, or a moving speaker, the delay values will be inaccurate, thereby causing incoherent addition of the signals.

Furthermore, with regard to the combination of Kellermann and Oh, while Kellermann is admittedly silent, Oh discloses that delay values are calculated “based on the geometry of microphones” (col. 2, lines 64-66), and it “is assumed the position of the speaker is known” (col. 2, line 67 to col. 3, line 1).

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have found any of the instant claims obvious at the time of invention over the combination of Kellermann and Oh.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kellermann as modified by Oh as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kaneda (U.S. 4,536,887). Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that instant claim 6 is allowable at least for its dependence on claim 1, which is believed to be allowable for the reasons indicated above, as well as because of an independent basis for patentability. The combination of references completely fails to disclose or suggest the processing of the audio signals are presently claimed, and this combination of references at best appears to use methods to

derive delay values that the Applicant has previously explained introduces errors into the process.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested. Finally, Applicants also respectfully submit that new claim 11 is patentable in view of the references of record in this application, both alone or in any combination thereof.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Piotrowski
Registration No. 42,079


By: Steve Cha
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 44,069

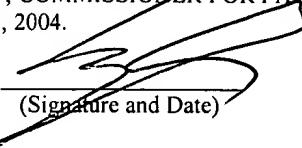
Date: March 15, 2004

Mail all correspondence to:
Dan Piotrowski, Registration No. 42,079
US PHILIPS CORPORATION
P.O. Box 3001
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001
Phone: (914) 333-9624
Fax: (914) 332-0615

Certificate of Mailing Under 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to MAIL STOP AF, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA. 22313 on March 15, 2004.

Steve Cha, Reg. No. 44,069
(Name of Registered Rep.)


(Signature and Date)